

HORSEMAN EARNS WANDERERS' FIRST £40!

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Tony Horseman capped another brilliant personal performance when he produced two goals from nowhere in injury time on Saturday to give the Blues a 5-2 victory against Barking at Loakes Park. The late burst earned Wanderers their first £40 merit money by winning by three clear goals.

From the start it looked as though the young Barking side were in for a real hammering. In the first 10 minutes they were ripped apart by three goals in four minutes.

But the Blues failed to maintain the pressure and their fast flowing football began to peter out. Only Horseman kept the side alive with his accurate flicks and precision passing.

"Bodger" also played a large part in two of the first three goals. He received a pass on the edge of the box from Steve Perrin and paused as Keith Searle made a run to the far post. He then crossed accurately to the centre forward who had the simple task of heading past Brian Blake, the Barking 'keeper.

Under no immediate pressure he tried a long back pass to Barron, who stood helpless as Bobby Amirkas raced in to slot the ball home. At this stage it looked as though Wanderers had thrown away another £40 and were about to lose a point, if not three.

However, the Blues pulled themselves together again and in the closing minutes really punished Barking. Mick Holifield had one shot cleared off the line and saw another chance thwarted by the superb Blake. But in injury time Blake was beaten twice by Horseman.

The Barking defence dithered as the ball fell to Horseman. He

looked up, saw the 'keeper off his line and cleverly lobbed the ball into the net. Then "Bodger" earned Wanderers the bonus

Wanderers struck again two minutes later. A through ball from Tony Brothers split the visitors' defence and found

almost clinched his hat-trick. After latching on to a pass from Horseman, Searle thundered a shot goalwards which the Bark-

ing defence tightened up considerably and the Blues attack lost their appetite for

By TERRY REEVE: Wycombe Wanderers 5, Barking 2

with a typical free-kick special. Despite a solid wall of players in front of him, he curled his low shot into goal to put the result firmly beyond doubt.

Searle in plenty of space. Keith eagerly snapped up the chance and crashed home a glorious goal.

Almost instantly, Searle

ing 'keeper did well to deflect, but only as far as Mick Holifield, who nipped in to tap the ball into an empty net.

From then on the pattern of

goals. This enabled the visitors to surge forward and probe a suspect home defence where Phil Wood was sadly out of form and Dave Bullock looked unsteady at times.

Barking's Peter Copperthwaite was first to test Wanderers when he beat Ian Rundle — playing his first game of the season — before releasing a great shot which went just over. A minute later, they took full advantage of Wanderers' slack defence.

A free-kick was awarded against Wycombe on the corner of the penalty area. John Oliver floated the ball over and Bullock allowed their stocky centre forward Steve Snell to head home past Paul Barron in goal. Barron, from Borough Road College, came in for Maskell who has a damaged hand.

In the first quarter of the second half Wanderers, inspired by the brilliance of Horseman, began another onslaught on the visitors' goal. Only excellent goalkeeping by Barking's Blake kept them out.

Keith Searle beat one player on a powerful run and then passed to "Bodger" who forced a great diving save from Blake. Within minutes the 'keeper excelled himself again when he kept out a fierce drive by Pritchard, who only showed flashes of his true form.

Tony Brothers also brought the best out of the 'keeper with a fierce shot and Steve Perrin could have increased the lead but he scooped an easy chance over the bar.

Wanderers allowed Barking to come right back into the game again after this unsuccessful pressure. Steve Snell missed one simple chance before Wycombe's left back, Roger Grant, made a disastrous mistake.

WYCOMBE: P. Barron; I. Rundle, P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Grant, A. Brothers, M. Holifield, P. Pritchard, A. Horseman, K. Searle, S. Perrin, Sub. P. McGillivray (not used).

BARKING: B. Blake; P. Foster, R. Crossley, B. Amirkas, D. Waite, G. Walters, J. Oliver (sub. S. Spinke 73 mins.), C. Moore, P. Copperthwaite, M. Simmonds.

Half-time: 3-1. Goalscorers: Wycombe — Searle 2 (12, 14), Holifield 1 (16), Horseman 2 (92, 93). Barking — Snell (24), Amirkas (87).